IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus, comprising:

image pickup means for picking up an image of an image pickup object to produce image data;

a delay means for delaying transmittal of the image data received from the image pickup means by a predetermined delay time;

detection means for detecting a predetermined variation in ~~brightness of~~ the image pickup object from within the image data produced by said image pickup means and generating a trigger signal in response to ~~a brightness~~ the variation detection, wherein the detection means and the delay means both receive the image data at substantially the same time;

an image fetching means for fetching, in response to receiving the trigger signal, image data from the delay means; and

storage means for storing the image data ~~produced by said image pickup means in synchronism with the trigger signal generated by said detection means;~~ fetched by the fetching means,

wherein the delay means adjusts the predetermined delay time in response to the predetermined variation to be detected by the image recognition means ~~said detection means calculates a difference value between a sum total of pixel values of all pixels of image data for one frame fetched previously by a predetermined interval of time and a sum total of pixel values~~

~~of all of the pixels of image data for one frame fetched at a present point of time, and, if the difference value is greater than a reference value set in advance, determines that a variation of a state has occurred with the image pickup object and generates the trigger signal~~.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said detection means further detects a motion vector of the image data as a variation of the state of the image pickup object.

4. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said detection means further detects a variation of the state of the image pickup object based on a predetermined image pattern of the image data.

5. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a CCD video camera which forms said image pickup means and a hardware module and a software module which form said detection means and said storage means are integrated in a portable housing.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said storage means stores the image data for one frame previously fetched by a

predetermined interval of time at a point of time when the trigger signal is supplied from said detection means.

8. – 9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said trigger signal is generated in response to a detection of an increase in brightness of the image pickup object.

11. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said trigger signal is generated in response to a detection of a decrease in brightness of the image pickup object, and said storage means stores image data captured a predetermined amount of time prior to said detection of a decrease in brightness.

12. – 14. (Canceled)

15. (New) The information processing apparatus of claim 1, wherein a user selects the predetermined variation to be detected in advance.

16. (New) An information processing method, comprising the steps of:

picking up an image of an image pickup object to produce image data;

delaying transmittal of the image data received from the image pickup means by a predetermined delay time;

detecting a predetermined variation in the image pickup object from within the image data from the picking up step and generating a trigger signal in response to the variation detection, wherein the detecting step and the delaying step both receive the image data at substantially the same time;

fetching, in response to receiving the trigger signal, image data from the delaying step; and

storing the image data fetched,

wherein the predetermined delay time is adjusted in response to the predetermined variation to be detected in the detecting step.

17. (New) A computer-readable medium storing a program that causes a computer to execute an information processing program, said information processing program comprising the steps of:

picking up an image of an image pickup object to produce image data;

delaying transmittal of the image data received from the image pickup means by a predetermined delay time;

detecting a predetermined variation in the image pickup object from within the image data from the picking up step and generating a trigger signal in response to the variation detection, wherein the detecting step and the delaying step both receive the image data at substantially the same time;

fetching, in response to receiving the trigger signal, image data from the delaying step; and

storing the image data fetched,

wherein the predetermined delay time is adjusted in response to the predetermined variation to be detected in the detecting step.